



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ENVIROFACTS

3/3/99

National Park Service
Hazardous Waste Management &
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CONFINED SPACE MANAGEMENT

DEFINITIONS

Confined Space: A space that is large enough and so configured that an employee can enter and work, has restricted means for exit, and is not designed for continuous occupancy.

Permit-Required Confined Space (Hereinafter "permit space"): A confined space that contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere, contains a material that has the potential for engulfing, trapping or asphyxiating an entrant, or contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Non-Permit Confined Space: A confined space that does not contain or, with respect to atmospheric hazards, have the potential to contain any hazard capable of causing death or serious physical harm. If the only hazard in a confined space is a hazardous atmosphere which can be controlled by continuous mechanical ventilation, the PA may establish an entry method less stringent than for permit spaces.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

Federal: Confined Spaces Protection is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as stated in 29 CFR 1910.146.

State: The requirements for your state must be reviewed to thoroughly assess your park's compliance.

THRESHOLD AND APPLICABILITY

All Parks are required to determine if permit spaces exist in their areas, and establish a written program.

CONFINED SPACE PROGRAM

Parks must establish a written program that addresses the following elements:

- A system for identifying all permit spaces.
- Posting a sign on all permit spaces that reads, "DANGER-PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE, DO NOT ENTER".
- If Park employees are NOT to enter permit spaces, the Park must establish a method for ensuring the following: 1) employees are prohibited from entering permit spaces, 2) when there are changes that may increase the hazards to entrants, the space is reevaluated and, if necessary, reclassified as a permit

space, and 3) working closely with contractors who enter Park permit spaces.

- If Park employees are to enter permit spaces, then a written permit space program must be established that addresses the following:
 - 1) the hazards in a permit space are evaluated and controlled before entry,
 - 2) establish a entry permit system,
 - 3) specify acceptable entry conditions,
 - 4) isolating, purging, and/or cleaning the space,
 - 5) ensuring acceptable entry conditions are maintained throughout the work,
 - 6) provide barriers for non-authorized employees and the public,
 - 7) providing all necessary equipment to perform the work, continually monitor conditions, and rescue authorized entrants,
 - 8) provide a properly trained attendant.,
 - 9) Conduct atmospheric testing and monitoring,
 - 10) establish a rescue team, and
 - 11) conduct a review of all permits within one year.

EMPLOYEES DUTIES

Entry Supervisor:

- Know the hazards within the permit space, and signs and symptoms of exposure.
- Verify that the entry permit are completed before anyone enters the permit space.
- Cancels the permit when the work is complete, or an evacuation is ordered.

Authorized Entrant

- Read and comply with the entry permit.
- Notify the attendant when you experience signs or symptoms of exposure, or recognize prohibited conditions.
- Immediately evacuate the area when the attendant orders evacuation or an evacuation alarm sounds, you experience signs or symptoms of exposure, or recognize prohibited conditions

Attendant

- Know the hazards within the permit space.
- Know the signs and symptoms of exposure.
- Remain directly outside the permit space until relieved by another attendant.
- Continuously account for the authorized entrants, as listed on the entry permit.
- Continually monitor for conditions that impact the safety of entrants.
- Immediately order the evacuation if a prohibited condition occurs, exposure is suspected, or any other condition that adversely impacts the safety of the entrants is observed.
- Immediately implement rescue procedures when entrants need help exiting.

- Perform non-entry rescue procedures listed on the entry permit. DO NOT enter the permit space
- Prohibit non-authorized employees from entering permit space, or interfering with materials and equipment necessary to comply with the entry permit.

Rescue Team

- Know and practice, at least annually, the rescue procedures, including the actual retrieval of a person, or mannequin, from space with similar restriction to permit spaces.
- Where rescue may require enter into a permit space, rescue team members must also be trained as an authorized employee.
- All rescue team members are trained in basic first aid and CPR.
- To minimize the chance of rescue team member needing to enter a permit space, a retrieval system, such as a harness or wristlets, shall be used ever possible.

ENTRY PERMIT SYSTEM

The entry supervisor develops an entry permit that addresses the following:

- Location and description of the work.
- When the permit expires.
- The names of the entry supervisor, authorized entrant(s), and attendant(s),
- The hazards within the permit space, and how they are isolated and/or controlled.
- Acceptable entry conditions.
- atmospheric testing and monitoring.
- Special personal protective equipment.
- How to activate the rescue team.

TRAINING

All employees must be trained in recognizing permit spaces, and how to obtain a permit. Employees entering permit spaces, or serving on the rescue team must also be trained in all the elements contained in the entry permit, specific duties, and rescue procedures.

RECORD-KEEPING

- Documentation of training (training outline, attendance sheet, and quiz, if applicable)
- Maintain all canceled permit for at least one year.

ENVIROFACTS X-REFERENCES

- HAZCOM
- SPCC
- Respiratory Protection Plan

RPP Regulatory Applicability Checklist

Checklist Item	Response
1. Ensure a written program is established that addresses all required program elements.	
2. Ensure all spaces at your Park have been surveyed to determine if they are confined spaces.	
3. If you identified non-permit required confined spaces, document in a "certification" that the confined space contains no serious health or safety hazards.	
4. If you have identified confined spaces, determine if hazards are present within the space that cause the space to be a permit-required confined space (permit space).	
5. If the hazard(s) in a permit space are permanently eliminated, so that no hazards any longer exist, declassify the space as non-permit confined space.	
5. Ensure all permit space is posted with a sign that reads "DANGER - PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE - DO NOT ENTER".	
6. If Park employees must enter permit spaces, ensure an entry permit system is established.	
7. Ensure the entry permit documents all elements required for safe entry.	
8. If you need respiratory protection in order to enter the confined space, ensure all affected employees have been properly trained, fit tested, and received a health evaluation?	
9. Ensure the rescue team practices an actual emergency evacuation at least annually.	
10. Ensure all permits are retained, and reviewed for improvements, within one year from the date of the permit.	